

**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY SHERIFF'S MERIT COMMISSION**  
**Friday, October 14, 2011 (Quarterly Meeting)**  
**Sheriff's Conference Room**  
**204 E. Main Street, Urbana**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jon Rector, Chair; Kelly Griffith

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ed McGhee

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Sheriff Dan Walsh

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Rector called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Declaring a quorum present, the Chair proceeded with the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Griffith made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 11, 2011 meeting. Seconded by Chair Rector. Motion passed.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Sheriff Walsh checked the lobby of the Sheriff's Office - there was no public participation.

**DISCUSSION**

Sheriff Walsh spoke about the results from the law enforcement written exam. The recommended cut off is 70% - Sheriff Walsh suggested the cut off to be 70% due to the physical agility portion. Commissioner Griffith made a motion to set the passing score at 75 and above; seconded by Chair Rector – motion passed. Chair Rector suggested the letters that go out to each applicant state pass or fail, not their actual scores.

Sheriff Walsh spoke to the commission about future law enforcement promotions. Each deputy could be qualified for sergeant/lieutenant and captain based on their years of service with CCSO. An email was sent out to all law enforcement personnel to see if they have interest (list of qualified individuals was reviewed by the commission for the positions of sergeant/lieutenant and captain).

Discussion followed regarding the commission being proactive and involved in promotions. Commissioner Griffith agreed it would be nice for the commission to be involved, but would it make a difference – as the Sheriff and his command staff personally know the individuals.

A motion was made by Chair Rector to certify the sergeant/lieutenant/captain law enforcement list; seconded by Commissioner Griffith – motion passed. The list was signed and certified by the commission and will expire on October 14, 2013

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Sheriff advised the commission that Mr. McGhee's commission will expire on November 30, 2011 and he has requested to be replaced.

Teresa advised that we should have an annual meeting sometime in January-February 2012. She will get with each commissioner to check their calendar for available dates.

Commissioner Griffith advised the commission of her new address (Teresa will make note and advise the Auditor's Office of her change of address).

Teresa was going to make sure S/A DeThorne had drafted the letter stating it was okay for Commissioner Griffith to serve on the Commission while residing in Sangamon County (attached).

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Chair Rector, seconded by Commissioner Griffith. The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Teresa Schleinz*

Teresa Schleinz/Merit Commission

**Julia R. Rietz**  
State's Attorney

**Steven D. Ziegler**  
First Assistant State's Attorney

**David L. DeThorne**  
Senior Assistant State's Attorney  
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**Office of  
State's Attorney  
Champaign County, Illinois**

DA: July 13, 2011

TO: Commissioner Jon Rector  
VIA E-MAIL

Commissioner Edward McGhee  
1602 Waterford Place  
Champaign, IL 61821

Commissioner Kelly Griffiths  
VIA E-MAIL

RE: Matters raised at the Merit Commission's meeting of July 11<sup>th</sup>,  
2011

Dear Commissioners,

This letter is intended to address two issues raised at the meeting held Monday afternoon. I provide brief answers below:

1. Will Commissioner Griffiths' move to Springfield jeopardize her position on the Merit Commission due to any residency requirements?
2. What prohibition, if any, is there on the State's Attorney's (as current and prior statutory counsel for the Merit Commission) ability to access materials that were protected by the attorney-client privilege during the time period when the Commission served as fact-finder and decision-maker in the matter of Rhonda Tarr (Thomas), given that the State's Attorney represented the Sheriff in that matter and that the matter led to a lawsuit brought by the Sheriff against the Merit Commission?

As to the first question, there is nothing in the Sheriff's Merit Commission Law, the most recent Champaign County Board Resolution

concerning the Merit Commission, or the Merit Commission's Rules which address residency beyond a prohibition that none of the Commissioners can reside in the same township. Therefore, I am of the opinion that Commissioner Griffiths' move to Springfield will not bar her from continued service on the Commission.

As to the question of my ability to access records, communications or documents that would be subject to the attorney-client privilege during those periods when the Commission was represented by other counsel, I understand that Mr. Glenn Stanko has advised that I not be given access to such communications. I further understand that he discussed this matter with Chair Rector. Mr. Stanko also called me to discuss the matter and most courteously explained his rationale for that advice.

If you have any questions about anything in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me using the information provided above.

Sincerely,

David L. DeThorne  
Assistant State's Attorney

CC: Sheriff Dan Walsh (VIA E-MAIL)  
Glenn Stanko (VIA E-MAIL)